

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 IO-10 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 /075 W

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R 171822Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8736

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04346

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEACG-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, WB, GW

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIES OF LORENZ CASE

REF: A) USBER 485 AND PREVIOUS (SOME NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY WISHES TO FLAG CERTAIN ASPECTS OF

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LORENZ CASE WHICH, BECAUSE OF ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES IN

BERLIN, COULD BECOME PROBLEMS IF REPETITION OF TERRORIST KIDNAPPING SHOULD OCCUR. IN PARTICULAR, TERRORIST DEMANDS FOR TRANSPORTATION AND POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR GUN PERMITS FOR WEST BERLIN RESIDENTS COULD RESULT IN PROBLEMS FOR ALLIES. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM THE MANY HOURS OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS IN BONN AND BERLIN, AND THE ADDITIONAL HOURS OF CONSIDERATION GIVEN THE QUESTION IN ALLIED CAPITALS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DEMANDS OF THE LORENZ KIDNAPPERS FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION PUT THE ALLIES IN A SENSITIVE POSITION. IN THE END, OF COURSE, A SOLUTION WAS FOUND AND PASTOR ALBERTZ AND THE TWO CONVICTS RELEASED IN BERLIN WERE FLOWN BY FRENCH MILITARY PLANE TO FRANKFURT. WHAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN, HOWEVER, IS THAT SEVERAL FACTORS COMBINED TO CAUSE THE FRENCH TO PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT, SOME OF WHICH MAY NOT BE REPEATED IN POSSIBLE SIMILAR CASES IN THE FUTURE. THEY ARE: A) THERE WAS A KIND OF PRECEDENT IN THAT THE FRENCH HAD FLOWN ULRIKE MEINHOF FROM BERLIN TO STUTTGART IN DECEMBER (SEE BONN 18641, DEC 74); B) THE FRENCH WERE IN THE CHAIR IN BERLIN FOR MARCH; AND C) THE RELEASED CONVICTS WERE STILL IN CUSTODY OF GERMAN POLICE AND UNARMED WHEN THE FRENCH TRANSPORTED THEM TO FRANKFURT (THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE, OF COURSE, FOR THE DECEMBER FLIGHT). THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS OF TRANSPORTATION DEMANDS, FRENCH MADE IT CLEAR THEIR ACTIONS WOULD BE BASED ON CHAIRMANSHIP IN BERLIN, THUS SETTING GROUNDWORK FOR CHAIRMAN AT TIME OF POSSIBLE FUTURE CASE TO ASSUME CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT FRENCH WOULD HAVE FOUND IT MOST DIFFICULT TO ACCEDE TO ORIGINAL DEMANDS, I.E., 707 AT TEGEL PRESUMABLY TO FLY OUT HOSTAGE AND ARMED KIDNAPPERS. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, INSISTENCE ON LIMITING ALLIED AIRCRAFT TO FRG DESTINATION WOULD BE MEANINGLESS: ONCE ON BOARD THE ARMED KIDNAPPERS WOULD BE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE CREW. IN POSSIBLE FUTURE CASE IT IS NOT HARD TO IMAGINE SITUATION IN WHICH ALLIES--BECAUSE OF FAIRLY CLEAR POLICY OF GERMANS TO ACCEDE TO KIDNAPPER DEMANDS--WOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER HEAVY OFFICIAL GERMAN AND EVEN PUBLIC PRESSURES TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT, PRESSURES WHICH WOULD BE TERRIFIC IF KIDNAPPERS

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WERE TO BEGIN KILLING HOSTAGES ONE BY ONE UNTIL DEMANDS WERE MET (THIS IS ADMITTEDLY A "WORST CASE" SCENARIO, BUT ONE WHICH NEEDS CONSIDERATION). SITUATION THEN, IN WHICH THREE ALLIES MANEUVER WITH RESPECT TO EACH OTHER, WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY, AND ALLY IN CHAIR IN BERLIN WOULD PARTICULARLY BE FACED WITH HEAVY PRESSURE. US PROVISION OF AIRLIFT FOR MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT FROM FRG TO BERLIN, WHILE DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY BONN (AND FOR

WHICH WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COMMENTS OF THANKS) WOULD NOT, WE THINK, SERVE TO DEFLECT PRESSURE ON US SHOULD WE BE IN CHAIR IN BERLIN IN FUTURE CASE. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S THOUGHTS ON ACTIONS US COULD OR WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE, INCLUDING ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE SOVIETS REGARDING ALLOWING A GERMAN PLANE INTO BCZ ON EXCEPTIONAL, NON-PRECEDENT BASIS.

2. IT SEEMS TO US POSSIBLE THAT ANY FUTURE SIMILAR CASE

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WHICH RESULTED IN LOSS OF LIFE TO HOSTAGE OR INNOCENT
BYSTANDER COULD LEAD TO RENEWED REQUEST FROM BERLIN
AUTHORITIES OR PRIVATE PERSONS FOR GUN PERMITS. WE
ASSUME THAT THIS HAS NOT BECOME AN ISSUE NOW SINCE
LORENZ WAS RELEASED AND NO ONE WAS INJURED. FROM LORENZ'
OWN ACCOUNT OF HIS KIDNAPPING IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT HAD
HE BEEN ARMED IT WOULD HAVE MADE NO DIFFERENCE EXCEPT,
PERHAPS, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT HAD HE ATTEMPTED TO
USE A WEAPON. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANY CHANGE IN ALLIED
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POLICY WITH RESPECT TO PRIVATE ARMS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN,
BUT WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THIS AT SOME POINT
BECOMES A HOT ISSUE.

3. GIVEN ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO BERLIN
PUBLIC SAFETY, IT MUST BE CONCLUDED THAT LACK OF PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE IN POLICE TO SOME DEGREE REFLECTS ON ALLIES
AS WELL. WE BELIEVE ALLIES SHOULD RESIST ANY TEMPTATION
(IF ANY EXIST) TO JUMP IN AND EXERCISE MORE DIRECT
CONTROL, BUT WE WONDER WHAT ARRANGEMENT MAY BE POSSIBLE
TO SHARE WITH BERLIN POLICE THE EXPERTISE DEVELOPED BY
POLICE AUTHORITIES IN US, FRANCE, AND UK. THIS HAVING
BEEN SAID, IT MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE HAVE NO WAY
OF JUDGING IF ANY POLICE FORCE IN A FREE SOCIETY COULD
BE DOING BETTER.

4. WITH TWO NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, WE WERE SATISFIED WITH
GERMAN-ALLIED CONTACTS IN BONN ON THE CASE. EXCEPTIONS
ARE, OF COURSE, BUBACK MATTER AND BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ
(BGS) PERSONNEL IN BERLIN. CLARIFYING STATEMENT ISSUED
IN BERLIN BY JUSTICE SENATOR OFFICE HAS APPARENTLY GOT
US OUT OF THE WOODS ON THE FORMER, AND WE BELIEVE WE
HAVE BEEN ABLE (AS SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN STATE
52712) TO TURN BUBACK'S INDISCRETIONS SOMEWHAT TO ALLIED
ADVANTAGE IN REIMPRESSION ON FRG THE NEED TO CONTROL ALL
ELEMENTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHENEVER BERLIN ANGLES ARE
INVOLVED. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, ENTIRE QUESTION OF
SECONDMENT OF PERSONNEL FROM ONE FEDERAL ORGAN-
IZATION PROSCRIBED IN BERLIN TO AN ACCEPTABLE ONE IS
RECEIVING OUR FURTHER ATTENTION.
HILLENBRAND

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